

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on February 9, 2006. At that time, claims 1-15 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-15. However, the Examiner raised specific concerns regarding the specification and the priority claim in the application.

I. Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for typographical errors found at page 12, line 22 and at page 14, lines 9 and 14. As a result of this paper, the specification has been amended to correct these typographical errors. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also objected to the specification as failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for claim 6. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the specification to provide the proper support for claim 6. This amendment is not new matter and is proper. See MPEP § 2163.06 (“The claims as filed in the original specification are part of the disclosure and therefore, if an application as originally filed contains a claim disclosing material not disclosed in the remainder of the specification, the applicant may amend the specification to include the claimed subject matter.”) Accordingly, as the specification provides adequate support for claim 6, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. Priority

By the present paper, Applicants have amended the specification to include the proper priority claim. According to MPEP § 201.11(III)(D), this claim may be made:

If an applicant includes a claim to the benefit of a prior application elsewhere in the application but not in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(iii) or 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) and (a)(5)(iii) (e.g., if the benefit claim is included in an unexecuted oath or declaration or the application transmittal letter) within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) or (a)(5)(ii), the Office will not require a petition and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t) to correct the benefit claim if the information concerning the benefit claim contained elsewhere in the application was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on a filing receipt.

In the present application, a Priority Claim was submitted on the application transmittal letter when the application was filed, and thus, this priority claim was unquestionably submitted within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) or (a)(5)(ii). This claim of priority was recognized by the Office as shown on the filing receipt. Therefore, Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment to the specification without requiring a petition and the surcharge.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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